

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-15 and 17 remain active in this, Claims 1, 3 and 15 having been amended and Claims 2 and 16 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-6 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uwazumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,770,388); Claims 1-6 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikitsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,602,620); and Claims 7-14 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 7-14.

In light of the several grounds for rejection, Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the features stated in original Claims 2 and 16, and Claims 2 and 16 have therefore been canceled. The dependency of Claim 3 has therefore also been corrected consistent with the cancellation of Claim 2. No new matter has been added.

As stated in amended Claim 1, the claimed perpendicular magnetic recording medium includes a nonmagnetic layer between arrayed soft magnetic dots and a ferromagnetic recording layer. As stated in amended Claim 15, the claimed perpendicular magnetic recording medium includes a nonmagnetic layer between a soft magnetic underlayer having arrayed projections a ferromagnetic recording layer.

In contrast, neither Uwazumi et al. nor Kikitsu et al. disclose the above-stated structures of amended Claims 1 and 15. Applicants particularly note that, contrary to the finding stated in the outstanding Official Action, Uwazumi et al. do not disclose a layered structure of a soft magnetic underlayer and arrayed soft magnetic dots. Therefore, it is

respectfully submitted that the amended claims patentably define over the cited art and are likewise in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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